CHAPTER III

THE ACTUAL WORLD, AND THE VIEW WHICH IT GIVES OF ITS GOVERNOR.

SECT. I.—PARTICULAR E&VIEW OP THE FIVE PHENOMENA BEFORE SPECIFIED

TH& phenomena which we have been considering are not small ami insignificant, nor are they single and isolated; they are large in themselves, and spread over the wide surface of the world and the world's history. They are not mure points on winch a perverted ingenuity may construct an inverted pyramid, but a wide base on which reason may rear the largest super-htruetmu They go far down an among the deepest strata in the structure of our world, and they mount up to the view as among the crowning heights of the landscape.

They are facts on which the thinking portion of mankind have been prone to meditate in all ages and countries., and as they do so, have often become bewildered, and have lost them-KelvcB in ever-thickening mazes. How melancholy the feeling of the elder Pliny I—[6<] A being full of contradictions, man is the most wretched of creatures, since the other creatures have no wants transcending the bounds of their nature, Man is full of desires and wants that reach to infinity., and can never be satisfied. His nature i« a lie, uniting the greatest poverty with the greatest pride. Among these so great evils, the best thing God. has bestowed on man IB the power to take his own life."* Sceptics have seen, as they could not but wee, these darker features of our world, and havo made their own

use of them.
They have cmumonly dwelt among these mazes as robbers live

* We quotu the oondtiriHcti account by Nonndor* Int. Ck»n. Ch. Iliat. It is takcu from fttriww plucoa, but cBpuoinily N'atur, HUtur., L. il 0. vii.